report on sick industries and come out with conclusion in view of the urgency of the problem;

(b) whether Government is going to consider setting up of five winding up tribunals, to solve the burning issue of sickness as recommended by the expert group;

(c) whether Government would define sickness; and

(d) whether the issue of sickness is much more related with managerial, financial and labour problems; if so, whether government would discuss expert committee report with the MPs interested in removal or curbing of sickness and other group as soon as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) A Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring was appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Omkar Goswami in May, 1993 which submitted its report in July, 1993. The recommendations of the Committee with regard to industrial and financial sector, *inter-alia*, include:

(i) early detection of sickness.

(ii) changes in the Companies Act, 1956, to facilitate restructuring.

(iii) amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to enable restructuring of the work force.

(iv) amendment of the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 to improve generation of internal resources of sick companies,

(v) amendment of taxation laws to facilitate merges, amalgamations of companies,

(vi) changes in Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to attract foreign capital and equity,

(vii) empower Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for speedier restructuring, winding up and sale of assets of companies; and

(viii) setting up of five Recovery Tribunals for speedier satisfaction of interests of secured creditors.

The recommendations are under active consideration of Government. The meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance is scheduled to be held on 25th August, 1993 to discuss the recommendations of Dr. Omkar Goswami Report.

Farm Loan Given to Farmers

@3760-B. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farm loan given to the farmers of the drought hit areas of the State of Bihar is being forcibly realised by the authorities in the State despite the fact that these parts of the State are still reeling under drought;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take to save the hapless farmers of the drought hit parts of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the State Government announced the suspension of coercive action for recoveries in 309 drought affected blocks for a fortnight from 16 to 30 July, 1993 withr egard to co-operative loans and further that the State Government issued an order on 29-7-93 to the effect that recovery of all co-operative loans and all types of Government loans have been suspended till further orders. The recovery of dues from borrowers by the financial institutions is their normal activity. The Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not favour any measures which may vitiate recovery climate.

@Previously unstarred Question No. 3333 transferred from 20-8-93.

However, in order to provide relief measures to persons affected by natural calamities like drought, floods, etc., RBI has issued standing guidelines on 2-8-1984 to the banks. On the declaration where the District Collector certifies that the crop yield is below 50 per cent of the normal yield and District Consultative Committee is satisfied about it, quick relief measures have to initiated by banks as per guidelines.

The standing guidelines envisage *inter-alia*,

(i) Conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans.

(ii) Rescheduling/postponment of existing term loan instalments.

(iii) Provision of additional need based crop loans/working capital.

(iv) Relaxation in security and margin norms.

Loss of Foreign Exchange Through Foreign Airlines

@3760-C SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of foreign exchange going out of the country through the foreign airlines in the last two years, Airlines-wise figures; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned by Air India and Indian Airlines in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

@Previously unstarred Question No. 4201, transferred from 24-8-93.

Opening of Four More Satellite Based T.V. Channels

3761. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lately decided to open up four more Satellite based TV channels to cater to the various interests; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and in what way these are to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan introduced five satellite channels from 15th August, 1993 viz. Entertainment, Sports, Business news & current affairs, Music and Enrichment. The programmes on these channels can be received in all parts of the country through an appropriate dish antenna. The programmes of the entertainment channel are also available terrestrially at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Co-Operation of PTI with IIMC

3762. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the nature of co-operation of PTI with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication;

(b) what is the financial expenditure involved in the co-operation;

(c) whether the IIMC has not become self-sufficient so that it does not require any co-operation from outside; and

(d) whether any evaluation has been done about the functioning of this Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) While there is no collaboration between the IIMC and the PTI, the Institute avails of teleprinter services of PTI on payment of prescribed